



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Subject: Land Use Decision Support and Impact Assessment Tools Workshop,
January 22-23, Madison

Dear Colleague:

You are invited to participate in the upcoming *Changing Landscapes 2: Anticipating the Effects of Local Land Use Decisions* workshop to be held Thursday and Friday, January 22 and 23 in Madison.

The Department of Natural Resources has a responsibility to support sound land use as well as Wisconsin's comprehensive planning ("smart growth") process. One component of this effort is to promote the use of decision support tools by the general public, public officials, and others who make land use decisions. Along these lines, we are pleased to be sponsoring this workshop to evaluate tools for assessing impacts of land use decisions.

This workshop is co-sponsored by Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, UW-Extension, UW's Land Information and Computer Graphics Facility, and Department of Urban and Regional Planning, 1000 Friends of Wisconsin, Rock River Coalition, Gathering Waters Conservancy, Wisconsin Chapter of the American Planning Association, UW-Stevens Point's Center for Land Use Education, and Wisconsin Realtors Association. The involvement of these organizations helped shape the workshop goals, content, and audience.

Over the course of two days, we hope to introduce participants to a variety of decision support and impact assessment tools, ask for feedback regarding the tools' utility and accessibility, and determine a strategy for promoting use of the tools by the public at large. There will also be a citizen panel to talk about the advantages and lessons-learned using these types of tools in the decision-making and planning processes. This workshop will be a foundation for future regional workshops where technical assistance providers will connect with interested citizens and local decision-makers thereby raising the quality of local discussion regarding land uses.

We hope you will join us for this dynamic workshop. Enrollment is limited so please register soon! You can register online at http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/es/science/landuse/Changing_Landscapes/index.htm. There you can also find more information, including an agenda and proceedings from the first *Changing Landscapes* workshop. Should you have any questions regarding the workshop, please contact either Matthew Murrell (matthew.murrell@dnr.state.wi.us; 608-267-0579) or Dana Lucero (dana.lucero@dnr.state.wi.us; 608-266-5227).

Sincerely,

Dreux J. Watermolen
Chief, Science Information Services